

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph No. [0046] with the following new paragraph:

[0046] FIG. 4 shows a [H]histological and immunohistochemical analysis of engineered cartilage layers derived from MSCs coated onto the polymer surfaces after 3 weeks in culture. Sections were stained with H/E (4A and 4B), alcian blue (4C and 4D), picro-Sirius red (4E and 4F) or immunostained for Col II (4G and 4H), and LP (4I and 4J) and Col I (~~4K and 4L~~). Asterisks denote the structure of the polymer within the cartilage layer. Arrows in Figure K and L indicate intense regions of Col I staining. Low magnification (A, C, E, G, I, and K), bar=200 μ m; higher magnification (B, D, F, H, J, and L), bar=10 μ m.